

MEMORANDUM

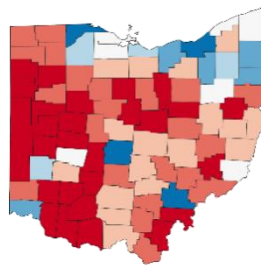
To: Interested Investors & Stakeholders
Fr: David Pepper, Chairman, Ohio Democratic Party
Re: 2018 Ohio Midterm Election Post-Mortem

With final data now available, this memo outlines a basic summary of the 2018 elections, including overall results, turnout trends, the differences between the campaigns that we won and those we lost, and a look at the deeper realignment that is taking place in Ohio politics.

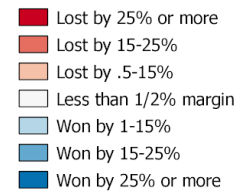
OVERVIEW: ELECTORAL RESULTS

A. Democrat Sherrod Brown won re-election to the U.S. Senate by a margin of 6+ points.

	# OF VOTES	PERCENT
BROWN	2,355,923	53.4%
RENACCI	2,053,963	46.6%



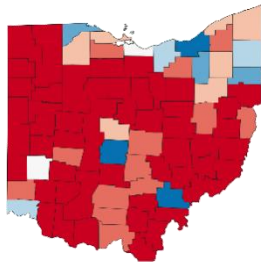
Brown Vote Margin*



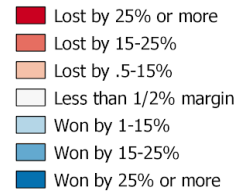
**Brown won 16 of 88 counties*

B. Democrats lost all statewide constitutional offices, including gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray by 3.7 points.

	# OF VOTES	PERCENT
CORDRAY	2,067,847	46.7%
DEWINE	2,231,917	50.4%



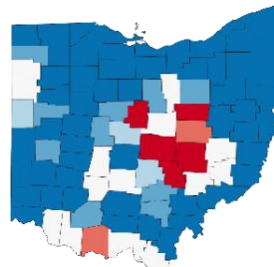
Cordray Vote Margin*



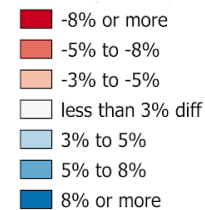
**Cordray won nine counties*

C. Democrats picked up two seats on the Ohio Supreme Court, including one held by a Republican incumbent and Kasich appointee.

	# OF VOTES	PERCENT
DONNELLY	2,170,227	61.04%
BALDWIN	1,385,435	38.96%

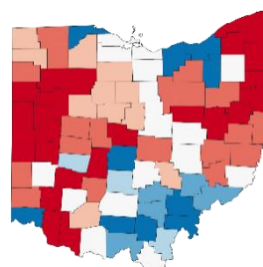


Donnelly Vote Margin*

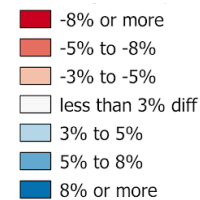


**Donnelly won 74 counties*

	# OF VOTES	PERCENT
STEWART	1,853,418	52.64%
DEGENARO	1,667,258	47.36%

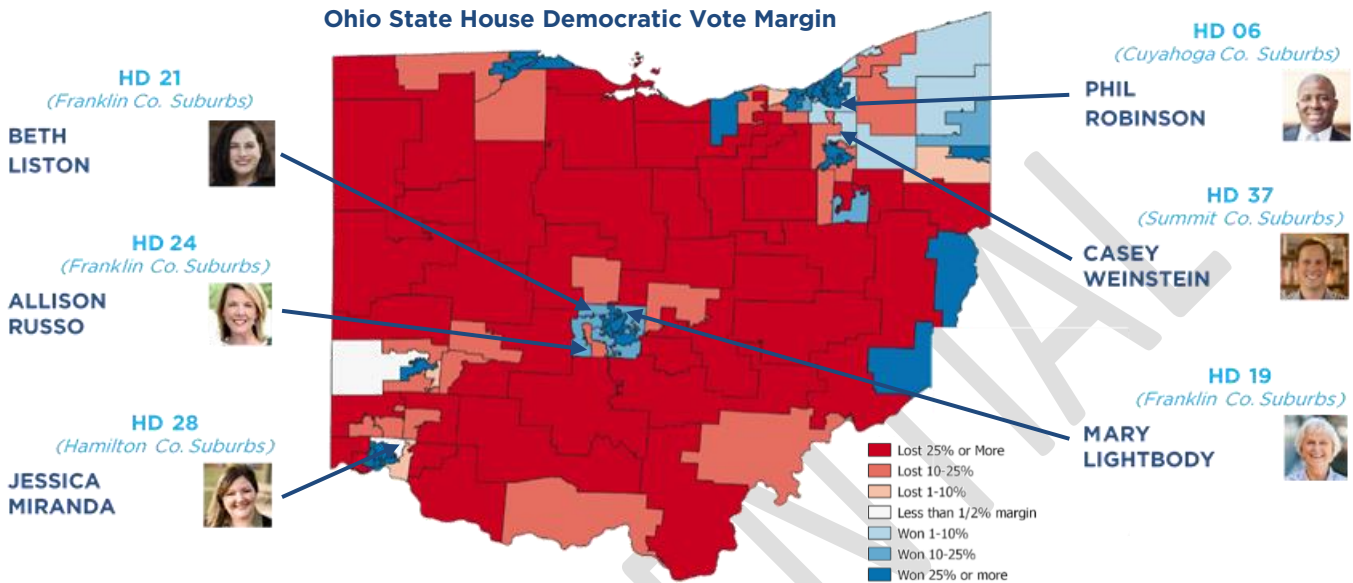


Stewart Vote Margin*



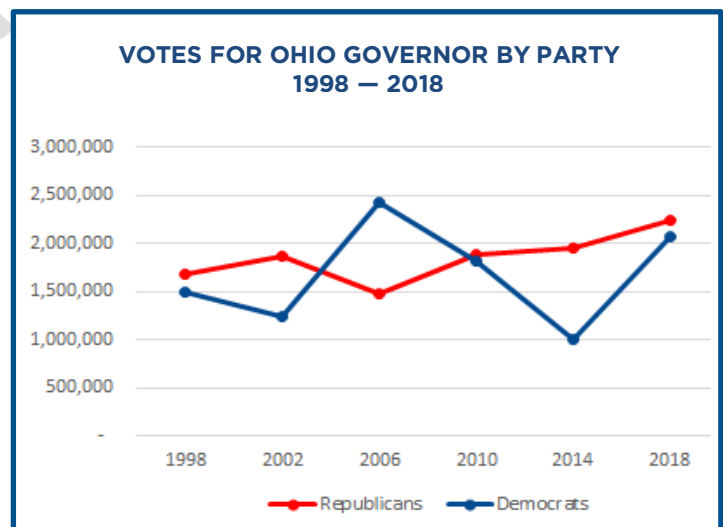
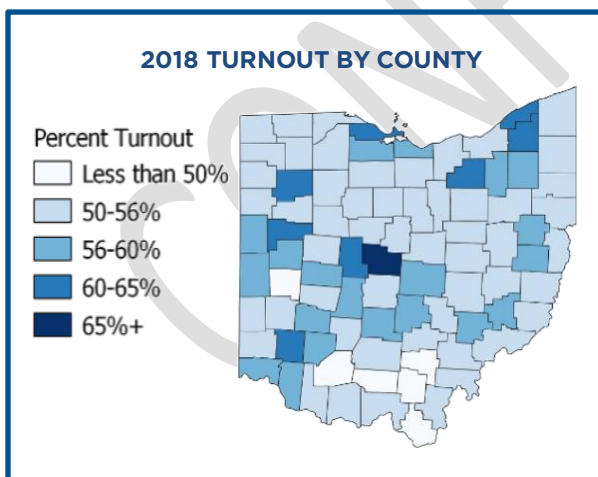
**Stewart won 28 counties*

- D. Justice-Elect Melody J. Stewart made history in November, becoming the first African-American woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court and the first ever African-American Democrat elected to statewide office.
- E. Democrats flipped six seats from red to blue in the Ohio State House, (the first “red to blue” flips since 2008), but lost one, for a net gain of five seats.



DATA: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

- A. Voter turnout spiked in 2018 to 55.7 percent—the highest it has ever been in Ohio for a midterm election. Only six out of 88 counties had less than 50 percent turnout.

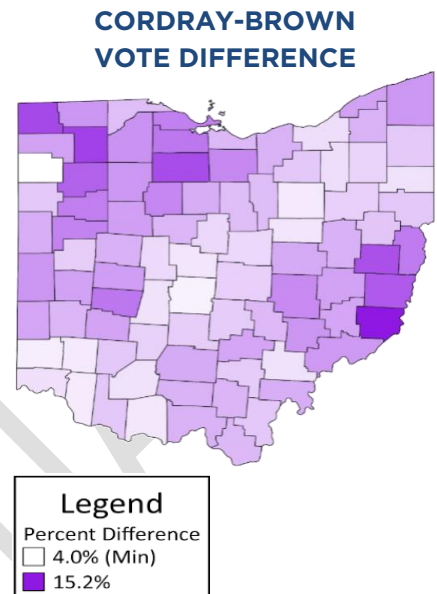


- B. Democratic performance increased by more than one million votes from 2014, more than doubling, and was higher than in any other midterm election save 2006. At the same time, Donald Trump clearly motivated his voters to show up in numbers never seen in a midterm election.

Richard Cordray is the first Democrat in Ohio history to receive more than two million votes and NOT be Governor.

- C. Where Brown outperformed Cordray and other statewide candidates illustrates where Democrats need to make gains in future cycles. In Ohio's 10 largest counties, and particularly in blue collar suburbs, the total difference from Brown to Cordray was 133,743 votes. Flipping most of those Brown-DeWine votes would turn Ohio blue.

County	Brown	Renacci	Cordray	DeWine	Vote Diff	Percent Diff
1. Cuyahoga	338,519	130,439	312,147	148,045	26,372	5.6%
2. Franklin	321,920	148,064	299,927	162,328	21,993	4.7%
3. Hamilton	192,579	134,234	174,781	145,164	17,798	5.4%
4. Montgomery	111,412	88,027	96,564	97,677	14,848	7.4%
5. Summit	125,656	81,523	114,223	86,431	11,433	5.5%
6. Lucas	97,960	49,318	87,624	56,001	10,336	7.0%
7. Stark	66,976	69,245	58,534	73,756	8,442	6.2%
8. Lorain	65,444	45,249	57,039	51,037	8,405	7.6%
9. Lake	47,845	44,297	40,144	49,666	7,701	8.4%
10. Butler	53,728	78,395	47,313	81,131	6,415	4.9%
TOTAL VOTE LOSS					133,743 votes	

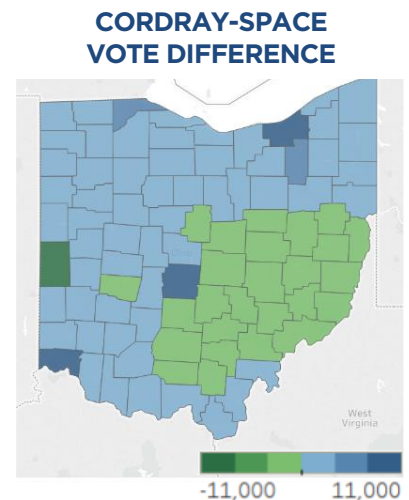


- D. In 27 counties—primarily southeast Ohio, where Auditor of State candidate Zack Space was once an elected member of Congress and where he spent much of his time campaigning in 2018—Space outperformed the top of the ticket.

This shows that potential inroads can be made in rural counties of Ohio, although the difference in raw votes from these gains is approximately 50,000 votes.

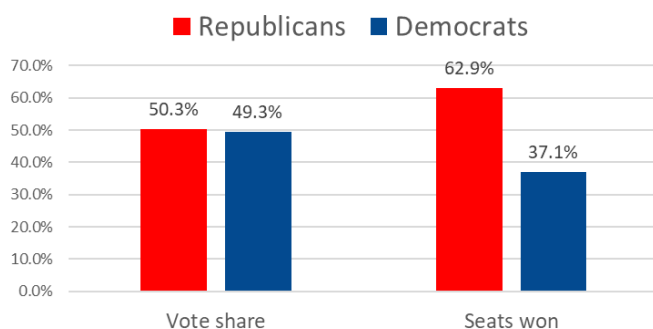
SO...IS OHIO A RED STATE?

Many national and in-state political leaders and pundits already have their sights set on the 2020 Presidential election and are speculating as to whether Ohio is now a red state. The data, however, shows a competitive picture.

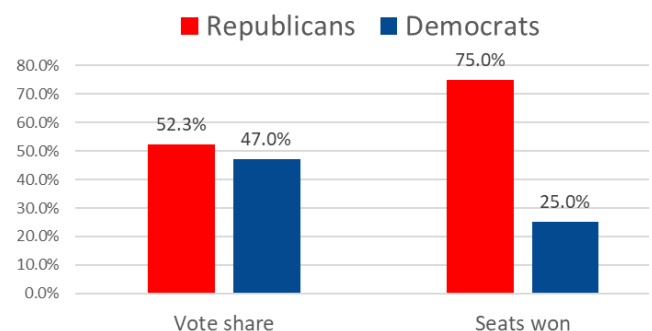


- A. The total vote share for state house and congressional races reveals a near even split among Republicans and Democrats in Ohio. The lopsided delegations reflect Ohio's extreme gerrymandering, which will be limited by constitutional amendments passed in 2018 and 2015.

2018 TOTAL STATE HOUSE VOTES



2018 TOTAL CONGRESSIONAL VOTES



B. Ohio Democratic turnout was the second highest in Ohio history, which propelled our statewide candidates to their most competitive midterm finishes, collectively, since 2006. The 2018 results were stronger across-the-board than 2010, two years after which Ohio went blue to reelect President Obama and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown.

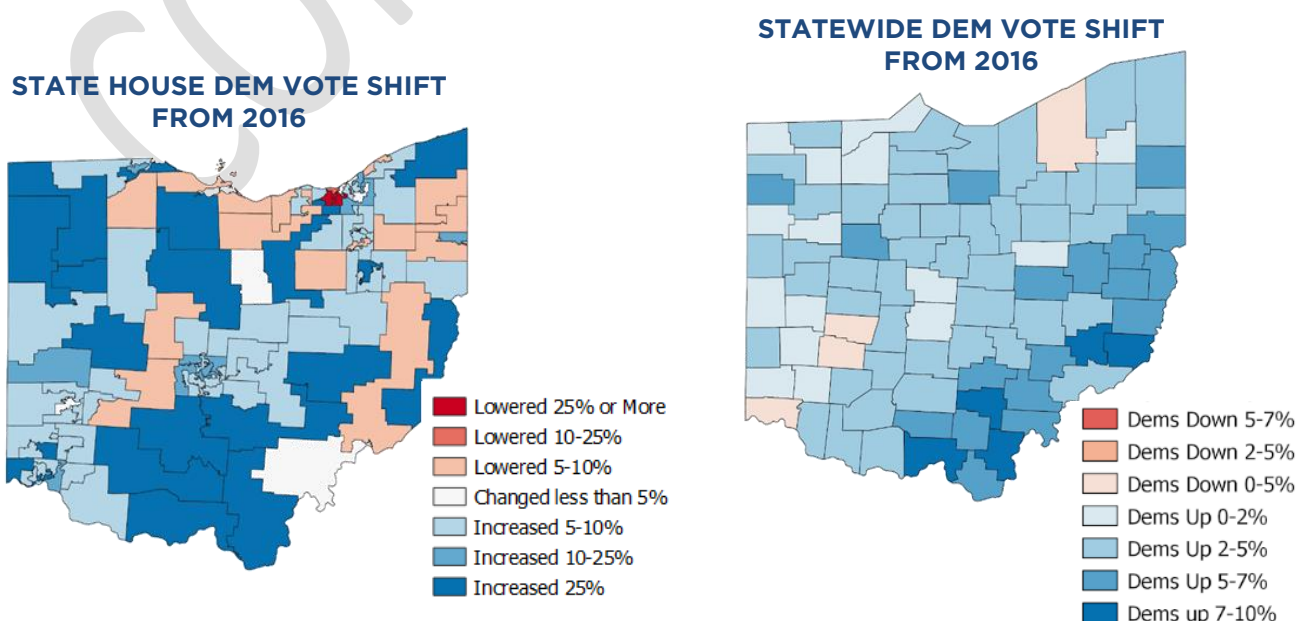
	2018 VOTES (number / percent)		2010 VOTES (number / percent)	
US SENATE	BROWN 2,355,923 53.4%	RENACCI 2,053,963 46.6%	FISHER 1,503,297 39.4%	PORTMAN 2,168,742 56.9%
GOVERNOR	CORDRAY 2,067,847 46.7%	DEWINE 2,231,917 50.4%	STRICKLAND 1,812,069 47.0%	KASICH 1,889,186 49.0%
ATTORNEY GENERAL	DETTELBACH 2,084,593 47.8%	YOST 2,272,440 52.2%	CORDRAY 1,772,728 46.3%	DEWINE 1,821,414 47.5%
AUDITOR	SPACE 2,006,204 46.3%	FABER 2,152,769 49.7%	PEPPER 1,683,330 44.9%	YOST 1,882,010 50.2%
SECRETARY OF STATE	CLYDE 2,049,944 46.9%	LAROSE 2,210,356 50.6%	O'SHAUGNESSY 1,555,705 41.5%	HUSTED 2,013,674 53.7%
TREASURER	RICHARDSON 2,022,016 46.7%	SPRAGUE 2,304,444 53.3%	BOYCE 1,525,992 40.6%	MANDEL 2,050,142 54.5%

C. The last year that Ohio went blue was 2012, and some outcomes in 2018 topped even those results.

In 2012, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown was re-elected with 50.7 percent of the vote. In 2018, Brown was re-elected with 53.2 percent of the vote.

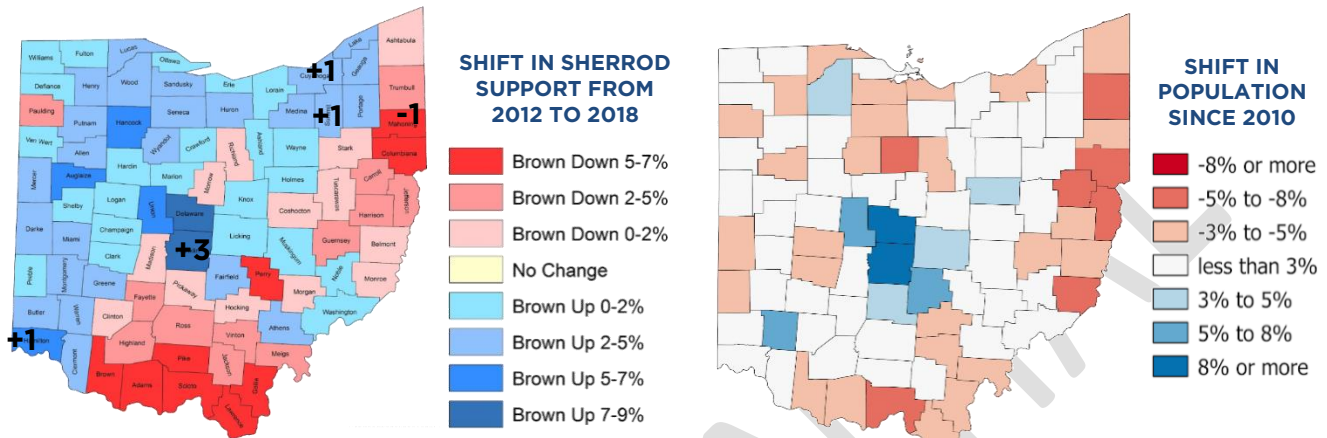
In 2012, Democrats lost a Supreme Court incumbent seat and had a net loss of one seat in the Ohio State House. In 2018, Democrats won both Supreme Court races by significant margins and scored a net gain of five seats in the Ohio State House.

D. Democratic performance in 2018 increased from 2016 overall and in most state house districts.



A POLITICAL REALIGNMENT

Comparing data from 2012 and 2018 demonstrates a significant realignment that is taking place in Ohio politics—similar to the national realignment that generated 40 U.S. House pick-ups for Democrats. Sherrod increased his margin of victory in 56 counties from 2012 to 2018, and lost support in 32 counties. That same shift mirrors where we gained popular support (and actual statehouse pick-ups despite gerrymandering), where we lost support, and where our population has changed since 2010.



Clearly, Democrats need to adjust our message and compete more aggressively in the counties and regions where Sherrod and statehouse candidates lost support. But on the plus side, the areas where Democrats are gaining support represent: 1) the much larger share of the state's population; 2) the highest growth counties and regions of the state; and 3) many former Republican strongholds (i.e. suburbs) that have generally served as the anchor of Republican statewide wins. If we build on these gains, the prospect for Democrats statewide will be more favorable than for Republicans.

KEY STEPS FOR 2019-2020

ODP is finalizing its strategic plan for 2019 and 2020. Key electoral opportunities include picking up more statehouse seats, winning two more Supreme Court seats, turning Ohio blue in the Presidential election, and ensuring fair districts post-2020 (which securing more statehouse and Supreme Court seats allows us to do).

The data above illustrate the broader strategic directions needed for success:

1. Maximize Democratic performance in our large, urban counties by re-engaging and re-empowering African-American and young voters (i.e. the Obama coalition), who have been under constant attack by the GOP through purging and other suppression tactics.
2. Dig deeply into the large suburban counties and communities that represented the largest difference between Sherrod Brown and the rest of the statewide ticket.
3. Conduct more effective rural outreach and engagement to further reduce margins of loss in smaller, red counties

For both 2 and 3, one key step will be successfully continuing the Main Street Initiative, so we are electing Democrats to local offices in both suburban and rural counties across Ohio. We are already ramping up to train hundreds of candidates for important 2019 campaigns across the state.

We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to our important work together in the coming years.